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LETTER DATED 25 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the letter addressed to you by His Excellency Sayed Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, regarding the Egyptian military aggression against the Sudanese province of Halaib.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Mohamed Osman YASSIN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 24 July 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. Further to our earlier letters to you, the most recent being that dated 17 July 1995, concerning the Egyptian military aggression against the province of Halaib, we should like to state that the Government of Egypt has continued to escalate tension and disseminate the spirit of aggression in the Sudanese province of Halaib. Recently, it has undertaken provocative acts against Sudanese citizens belonging to the tribes of the Bisharin and the Amra'ar, spreading fear and alarm amongst those innocent, defenceless people with the aim of driving them out of the lands which have been theirs and their forefathers for centuries.

2. The situation has been exacerbated by the fact that the Egyptian authorities have begun taking illegal measures, characterized by lack of integrity, against the chiefs of the Sudanese tribes in Halaib, with a view to forcing them to submit to their military schemes and policies. To that end, the Egyptian Government has had recourse to various expedients to win over the tribal leaders. It has also employed terrorist tactics against them, inspiring fear and threatening to expel them from the province, deprive them of water, close the roads and deny them freedom of movement. The purpose is to establish electoral districts in Halaib with a view to its participation in Egyptian elections for the first time in the history of the province, which unequivocally invalidates the Egyptian Government's claims regarding its alleged sovereignty over Halaib.

3. The most recent Egyptian measures, directed towards establishing Egyptian electoral districts for the first time in that part of Sudanese territory and inducing its inhabitants to stand for election in them, constitute a blatant violation of Sudanese sovereignty in this region and are in contravention of international covenants and agreements that prohibit the use of force to occupy the territory of another State and the policy of the imposition and perpetuation of the fait accompli.

4. The allegations made by the Egyptian President in Alexandria on the occasion of Egypt's commemoration of the 21 July revolution were cast in the same provocative mould. He threatened the Sudan using expressions announcing the use of force and the waging of war against the Sudan. He also deliberately persisted in wrongfully accusing the Sudan of the attempt on his life in Addis Ababa with nothing to substantiate that accusation. His principal aim was to drag the Sudan's name into the affair, without waiting for the results of the investigation carried out by the Ethiopian authorities, which established that the assassination attempt had been carried out by Egyptian elements.

5. As a result of that Egyptian Government offensive against the Sudan, the Egyptian security service attacked four Sudanese diplomats working in the Embassy of the Sudan in Cairo, seriously injuring them. Some of those Sudanese

diplomats attacked had to be hospitalized, in Egypt and elsewhere, in order to be treated for the effects of the attack. In order to ensure the safety of those diplomats and their families, the Sudanese Government evacuated the families of all Sudanese diplomats to the Sudan. Egypt and its security service perpetrated this aggression in flagrant violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 and the provisions of international instruments, laws and practices.

6. As a result of the foregoing, the Government of the Sudan reiterates its request, as stated in my letter referred to above, that Egypt should be compelled to accept the principle of international arbitration concerning this dispute. It further requests that the Security Council should also compel Egypt to agree to the following:

(a) Cessation of military encroachments on Sudanese territory;

(b) Complete withdrawal from the Sudanese province of Halaib and payment of appropriate compensation to the families of victims of Egyptian aggression;

(c) Renunciation of the policy of fait accompli and of expulsion of the Sudanese population from the region;

(d) Lifting of the blockade on the inhabitants of the region and authorization of deliveries to them of water and food, Egypt assuming responsibility for what could happen to them if this is not done;

(e) Cessation of current measures directed towards forcing Sudanese citizens in the province of Halaib to participate in the so-called election campaign;

(f) Cessation of successive general provocations of Sudanese citizens by the Egyptian authorities and of seizure of their property, freezing of their accounts in Egyptian banks and subjecting them to illegal interrogation. These are an attempt by the Egyptian authorities to distract attention from their military occupation of the Halaib region.

The Government of Sudan further requests that the Security Council should assume direct responsibility for this question, in order to prevent a deterioration of the situation and forestall Egyptian escalation thereof, which would most certainly threaten peace and security in this region. The Government of the Sudan considers that silence in the face of these dangerous Egyptian practices would encourage the Egyptian Government to continue to violate international instruments, threaten the security, peace and stability of the region and plunge it into events which would have dire consequences.

7. The Government of the Sudan, believing in its principles, based on non-intervention in the internal affairs of others and guided by its continual concern for the stability, peace and security of the region, reaffirms its commitment to all the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United

Nations and General Assembly resolutions, while at the same time requesting the Security Council to intervene and demand that Egypt should settle this dispute by all possible peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and provisions of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and international practice.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed TAHA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of the Sudan